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SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS-NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (NSMN) (94-26)//  
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RMKS/1. THIS SERVICE IS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF  
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ADDRESSEES IS ENCOURAGED. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED  
WITH THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS (CMC). THE COMMANDANT  
HAS AUTHORIZED TRANSMISSION TO MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES.

2. This is a special issue of Naval Service Medical News. This  
article merited immediate distribution because, in a few words,  
it put into clear perspective both the mission and philosophy of  
the U.S. Navy medical community.

3. CAPT Chuck Blankenship, MC, commanding officer of the medical  
treatment facility, USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), forwarded the  
following, which was written by one of the Navy hospital corpsmen  
in Sick Call aboard the hospital ship. Comfort is serving as a  
Haitian migrant processing center in the Caribbean.

4. "Give me your tired,  
your poor,  
your wretched refuse,  
yearning to breathe free ..."

I really think that Emma Lazarus said it best  
in the lines transcribed above,  
because we have been trying to do  
just that for hundreds of years.  
People have come to the  
United States of America with  
a dream,  
a family,  
and the clothes on their backs.  
And they have found opportunity,  
and religious freedom,  
a job,  
a new life.  
I had never known what that was like  
up until now.  
It took being there,  
and seeing the process take place,

to know that it really existed.  
Over and over again,  
we hear it over the radio,  
we see it on the news,  
and we thank God in our own silent way.  
But to look the oppression in the eyes,  
to see the fear,  
the hurt,  
the pain,  
That brought it right to our doorstep.  
Literally.  
I have seen my co-workers  
moved to tears,  
and seen the shock in their eyes,  
as they look at the worldly possessions  
of a woman fleeing her country.  
Or the man whose sole possession  
was his 14-month-old baby,  
whose mother had been killed.  
What do you say to those people,  
or do you do your best,  
to give them the simple human kindness  
that has never been shown to them before?  
We smiled, and we helped, and we let others  
perform their jobs.  
Because it wasn't our decision to bring them  
to our country,  
but it was our job  
to make them feel welcome,  
to give them a new home ...

5. Written 23 June 1994 by HM2 Rob Long, USN.

6. Very well done. VADM D.F. Hagen, MC, sends.//  
-USN-